Fire accident on tanker Wand Hari'

3985. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SUR FACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Bombay Edition of the Times of India dated the 3rd July, 1992 under the caption 'Fire abroad ship, four missing';

(b) whether it is a fact that an accident had occured recently on Board a tanker 'Nand Hari' belonging to Essar Shipping involving death of four members of the crew and injury to several others;

(c) whether any inquiry has been con-conducted into the matter as required under the Merchant Shipping Act;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the above tanker was sea worthy at the time of accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The accident resulted in loss of four, lives and injury to four mem. bers of the crew,

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Prima facie, the vessel was carry ing the necessary statutory certificates at the time of accident. However, the full facts will be known after the Prelimi nary enquiry.

Inquiry into explosion on 'Nand Hari' tanker

3986. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SUR FACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that one Nautical Advisor, who recently retired from Government service, or has joined Essar Shipping in contravention of Govenrment Servants Conduct and Service Rules and

(to) if so, what steps Govermmnet propose to take to ensure an impartial outcome of the enquiry in the recent explosion that occured on Board of a tanker 'Nand Hari' belonging to the Essar Shipping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS PORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government is not aware that the Nautical Advisor, who retired recently from Government service, is in the pay roll of M/s. Essar Shipping. It has, however, been ascertained from, the company that his advice is sought by them as a consultant as and when necessary in the course of business.

(b) The preliminary enquiry is being conducted by Principal Officer, a senior officer in Merchantile Marine Department, and surveyors working under him, in exercise of powers under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. There are adequate guidelines for conducting such enquiries.

Commercial utilization of surplus land of Calcutta Port Trust

3987. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to commer-cailly utilise surplus land belonging to the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) in the prime areas in Calcutta has received an encouraging response from the Centra!/ State Governments, P.S.Us, and NR.Is. etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In B.B.D. Bag area about 8.5 lakhs sq. ft. of built up accomodation has been booked by Central, State Govts, and Public Sector Under-takings, Financial Institutions and Calcutta Stock Exchange. At Alipore Boat Canal area about 6.75 lakhs aq. ft. has been booked by a number of Public Sector